

SITUATION REPORT NO. 37
INCIDENT NO. 97-015
DATE: May 5, 1997 TIME: 12:00 P.M.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: To date, seven people have died as a result of problems created by the winter storm and flooding.
3. DAMAGES: The Red River of the North has been receding slowly during the May 3-4 weekend. The Red River at Pembina on May 5 was 53.25 feet; the reading was missing for May 4. The river crested at 54.94 feet on April 26; flood stage is 42 feet. The river at Drayton measured 42.42 feet on May 5, a 0.12-foot decrease during the past 24 hours. The river crested at Drayton at 45.55 feet on April 25; flood stage is 32 feet. Upstream in Grand Forks, the river level was at 41.4 feet, a 0.37-foot decrease during the past 24 hours. The river at Grand Forks had crested at 54.2 feet on April 22; flood stage is 28 feet.

In Foster County, emergency management officials report 43 road washouts and nearly 70 roads are inundated or have water flowing over them.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from the first report.

STATE: No change from the first report.

FEDERAL: No change from the first and second reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The American Red Cross opened a second drive-thru feeding site at the L & M Meat Packing Plant in Grand Forks. The Red Cross has two drive-thru sites and 32 mobile sites throughout North Dakota. The number of evacuees housed at Red Cross shelters totaled 540 on May 3. Red Cross volunteers served 39,254 meals on May 4, approximately 10,000 more meals from the previous day.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: More than \$1.2 million in reimbursements have been made available to local governments and state agencies for emergency flood-fighting costs. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will pay 100 percent of Public Assistance categories A and B, debris removal and emergency protective measures. FEMA also pays the cost for direct federal assistance provided by federal agencies. The eligibility period has been extended from April 30 until May 10.

State-federal Community Relations teams began a door-to-door effort in Grand Forks on May 5 to make sure that the disaster recovery process was underway for residents. They also are reminding residents to call the National Teleregistration Center to register for assistance. Each team is comprised of experienced FEMA disaster recovery workers and newly-hired North Dakotans.

FEMA reports that 28,833 North Dakotans had registered damages by May 4 with the National Teleregistration Center. More than 13,280 applications have been received for the Individual and Family Grant program, a state-administered program that funds disaster-related serious needs and necessary expenses. To date, \$67,659.01 in funds have been approved. The program is 75 percent federally funded and 25 percent state funded.

The Grand Forks city water treatment plant became operational late May 1 as crews work to pressurize the southwest quadrant of the city. On May 3, the N.D. Department of Health reported that the water system has been pressurized west of U.S. Highway 81 and south of Demers Avenue. The plant is producing 4,300 gallons per minute (gpm). The Department of Health reports that while the water has been treated, it is not potable given the unknown condition of water mains. The north tower is on line, and crews are working to fill a seven million gallon reservoir. Crews continue to make progress on restoration of lift stations. As of May 3, 32 of 36 lift stations were operational.

The Attorney General's Office and the State Bar Association of North Dakota will facilitate a Consumer Education and Legal Rights and Issues Forum for Grand Forks flood victims at 7:00 p.m. May 6. Participants will include the Attorney General, the State Bar Association, N.D. Insurance Department, Legal Assistance of North Dakota, and FEMA.

Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) opened May 3 in Grand Forks and on May 5 in Grafton. The DRCs, established by FEMA and the N.D. Department of Human Services (DHS), provide information about available assistance programs for North Dakotans. In addition to FEMA and DHS, the DRCs are also staffed by North Dakota Agricultural Mediation Service, Job Service North Dakota, Social Security, Internal Revenue Service and the Small Business Administration. The Grafton DRC will be located at the Walsh County Courthouse and will be open from May 5-7, from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. The Grand Forks center will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., seven days a week, until further notice, at the city's Civic Auditorium. The Wapeton DRC closed on May 1. The staff has been reassigned to the Fargo DRC.

The Department of Health is awaiting an announcement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) about the availability of grants for funding disaster response and preparedness information. The state grant will be developed by Pam Vukelic, who can

be reached at (701) 328-3325.

During the past week, the N.D. Civil Air Patrol has conducted 10 surveillance flights of the Devils Lake and Grand Forks areas for the N.D. State Water Commission and FEMA.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: The Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports for the spring flood, Devils Lake flood and winter storm are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>". The N.D. State Water Commission posts flood-related information on its Internet home page. The address is "<http://water.swc.state.nd.us>". The N.D. Department of Agriculture also posts flood-related information on its home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/agr/>". The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has a "Water Control Home Page" at "<http://www.ncs-wc.usace.army.mil>". The U.S. Geological Survey's Internet home page address is: "<http://srv1dndbmk.cr.usgs.gov/public/>".

Douglas C. Friez, State Director